Guru Gobind Singh Oil Refinery

*18. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the status of Guru Gobind Singh Oil Refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab as on date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): About 2,000 acres land has been acquired for the project. The detailed pipeline route survey of the proposed crude oil pipeline from Gujarat to Bhatinda has been completed. Various environmental approvals for the project have also been obtained except the environmental approval for the Crude Oil Terminal, Pipeline and Single Point Mooring which is under processing by Ministry of Environment & Forests. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is on the look out for a Joint Venture partner for the project.

Lifting of Ban on Sanctions Imposed by US

†*19. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government have given assurance to withdraw all the sanctions imposed on India after the Pokharan explosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the sanctions are likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) In partial exercise of the waiver authority under the Defence Appropriations Act 2000, the US lifted restrictions on 27th October 1999, on US EXIM Bank, OPIC and TDA activities; International Military Education and Training Programme (IMET); the lending by US Banks to the Government of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

India; credit and financial assistance by Department of Agriculture to support the purchase of food; and, certain assistance for Wild Life Conservation and Environmental Projects. On 16th December, the US also removed 51 organisations from the list of over 200 Indian Government organisations, research institutions, public sector units and private companies—the so called the Entities List published in November 1998 which were subjected to tighter export restrictions.

The US continues to maintain restrictions with regard to non-humanitarian lending by International Financial Institutions and on export of defence-related and dual use goods and technology.

(c) The US has not indicated the time frame for lifting the remaining restrictions.

It is Government's view that all unilateral restrictions against India are counter-productive and should be completely lifted.

Demand for Foodgrains

*20. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the projected demand for foodgrains in the country during the next five years; and

(b) whether Government plan to meet this demand?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The Planning Commission has estimated the consumption/demand for foodgrains of 227.16 million tonnes at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan period *i.e.* 2001-2002.

(b) The Government on its part are taking a number of steps to increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country. For instance, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals based cropping system areas, for Pulses, National Pulses Development Project is being implemented. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of